



Clearwater's Conservation Chronicles



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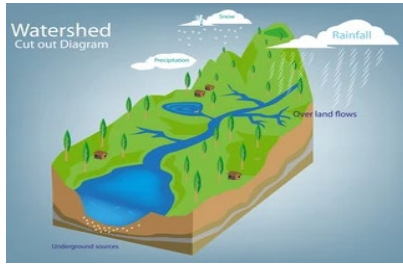
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One Watershed, One Plan

What is it?

It's a word that has been thrown around a lot lately: One Watershed, One Plan or 1W1P, but what is it?

According to the Board of Water and Soil Resources "One Watershed, One Plans align local water planning purpose and procedures on watershed boundaries to create a systematic, watershed-wide and science-based approach to watershed management." They build off existing data and local government structure to restore and protect the watershed. They use input from all, experts, agencies and citizens alike, to prioritize resources in the watershed and serve as a comprehensive plan. 1W1P's are not just for a single county but for all the counties within that watershed.

Currently Clearwater SWCD is currently a part of 3 different 1W1P's: 1. The Wild Rice-Marsh River, which is almost complete. 2. The Mississippi River Headwaters, which is also almost complete. 3. The Clearwater River, which is in its beginning phases. In fact, a public open house was held June 10th for the Clearwater River Watershed for anyone who lives or has a vested interest in the watershed.

You can find more information about any of these 1W1P's online by searching their names.

Custom Tree Plantings

Have Trees You Need Planted?



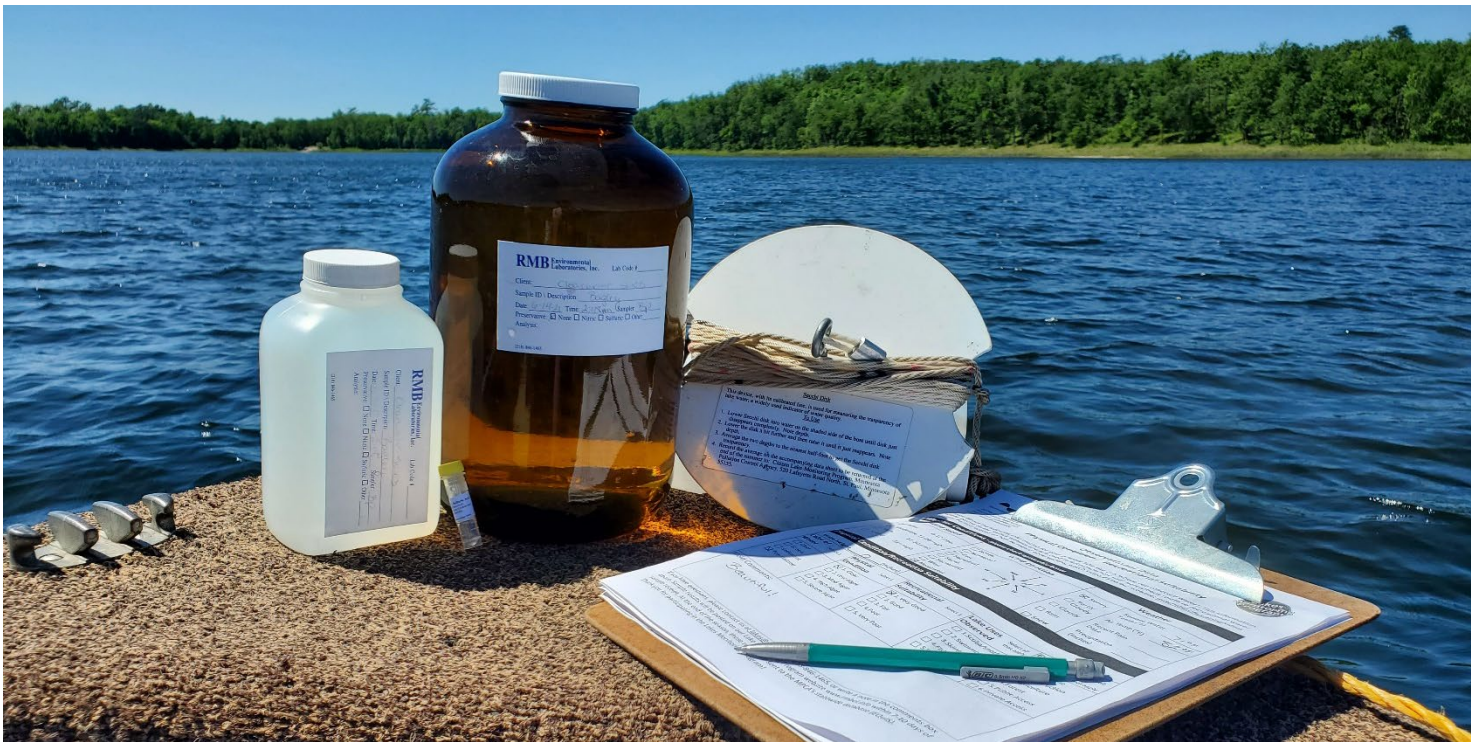
Did you know Clearwater SWCD offers custom tree plantings? Clearwater SWCD staff planted roughly 5,000 trees this past spring for custom plantings. Some of the species planted were this year were Crabapples, Apples, White Spruce, White Pine and Red Pine.

With the timber sale completed last fall, 100 Red Oaks, 100 Burr Oaks and 50 Jack Pines were also planted at the Conservation Farm (left) to introduce new growth.

Custom service tree plantings can be provided by hand for .50¢ per tree or by tree planting machine for .30¢ per tree. Clearwater SWCD will provide the tree planting machine, but the landowner must provide the tractor. Landowners are welcome to purchase trees from our annual spring tree sale or other sources.

Whether you're looking to do ornamental planting, a reforestation or a wind break Clearwater SWCD is there for all your custom planting tree needs.





Lake Monitoring

Assessing the Health of Our Lakes to Better Understand Trends

The sun is bright, the sky is a clear blue, and the water is calm. A loon floats past and laughs in alarm. I dip my PVC tube into the still water to collect a water sample and watch it ripple, sending little bits of algae to ride a wave. The water sloshes as I pour the liquid into the glass jar, glinting in the sun. As I lower the white secchi disk into the deep I think “This is my favorite part of my job.”

Each summer Clearwater SWCD goes out and takes samples of the lakes in the county to monitor their health. Clearwater SWCD and our volunteers have been taking water samples from different lakes since 2001. We then send the water samples to RMB Environmental Laboratories Inc. Each water sample is submitted to a variety of tests. Clearwater SWCD staff also use a piece of equipment called a Sonde to collect information on the lake’s Oxygen, Temperature, pH, etc. A secchi disk is also used to collect information on the lake’s clarity. All of

this information is then passed on to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The longer we sample the lakes, the more data we can collect for the MPCA and eventually a trend will develop.

To take a water sample is pretty simple! All you need is a 2-meter PVC tube with stoppers and a container. The tube is rinsed with the lake’s water a few times before it is lowered into the water all the way. A stopper is placed in the top of the tube, then the tube is raised up until it is almost out of the water, another stopper is then placed on the bottom of the tube. Then you invert the tube and slowly pour it into the container. Sometimes a preservative is added. Then the container is placed in a cooler to keep it cold for the lab.

To measure the lake’s clarity a white disk, called a secchi disk, is lowered into the water on a string. The string is marked every foot and half foot. The disk is lowered until it is no longer visible, the footage is then noted. The secchi disk is raised up until it is visible and again the footage is noted. The two depths are averaged and there we have our measured clarity.

This summer our staff and volunteers are taking samples from 15 different lakes in county and each lake is sampled 5 times over the course of the summer. So, if you see some boaters with a long white tube gathering water and tossing a white disk with a string in the lake, give a wave! We’re just collecting some data to better understand the trends on water quality in our area’s lakes. All of our sampling data can be found at <https://www.rmbel.info/data/>.



Meet Lori!

Our District Manager

Lori is our District Manager. Lori plays a lead role in the general oversight and administration of the day to day activities of the SWCD. The primary objective of this position is to complete the administrative duties required by local, state, and federal programs and policies pertinent to the operations of the SWCD. Lori is responsible for initiating the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of SWCD operations, policies, programs, and procedures. Lori is also responsible for advising the SWCD Board of actions to maintain compliance with all local, state and federal laws, rules and mandates and adhering to contract obligations. Lori reports monthly to the SWCD Board of Supervisors.



Meet Chester!

Our Water Plan Coordinator/Program Technician

Chester is our Water Plan Coordinator/Program Technician. Chester's position plays a lead role in the implementation of the Clearwater County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan/1 Watershed 1 Plan. Chester runs many of our other programs such as Soil Health, Cost Share, our annual tree program and Forestry. Chester provides technical assistance to landowners looking to implement forestry practices such as Forest Stewardship Plans or to qualifying producers hoping to Cost Share a project. Chester is extremely knowledgeable and can assist with any question you have regarding any of the District's programs.



Meet Brielle!

Our Program Technician

Brielle is our Program Technician. Brielle runs our county AIS program she Works with County Board of Commissioners to develop and administer an Annual AIS Plan & Budget and Coordinates AIS inspectors with county and staffing company. Brielle works on the Implementation of Early Detection Program activities, such as vegetation surveys, zebra mussel sampling, etc. Brielle is the lead Technician when it comes to our District's water quality monitoring activities and does routine monthly water testing in local lake throughout Clearwater County. Brielle is our creative Marketing and Outreach specialist and keeps our website and newsletters up to date, along with creating materials for all programs and outreach events.



Meet Kaleb!

Our Seasonal District Technician

Kaleb is our Seasonal Technician. Kaleb came all the way from Idaho this summer to join our team. Our Soil Health Program become demanding in the summer, so Kaleb has spent much of his time delivering and calibrating our No-Till Drill for producers. Kaleb also assists the Technician and Water Plan Coordinator in carrying out technical assistance for various local and state programs, such as the development of cost share projects with landowners and assisting with water monthly water monitoring. Kaleb has an amazing green thumb and can help identify almost any plant that enters our office.

Watch 'Em Grow!

First Graders Learn About Planting Trees

Four first grade classes at Bagley Elementary and Clearbrook-Gonvick Schools had the chance to learn about planting trees while taking home a Common Lilac of their very own!

First graders learned about what a tree needs to become successful, how pollinators have an impact on trees and the food they produce, as well as how to take care of their own trees. First graders were able to plant their own lilac in a peat pot with potting soil and received informational handouts about their lilacs, pollinators and planting steps (along with some snacks, of course!).

Every spring before school lets out, Clearwater SWCD holds our Watch 'Em Grow educational program for the first graders in Clearwater County. Any extra trees from our annual trees sale are then donated to the schools at this time. Clearwater SWCD donated 1,000 trees to local schools in 2021.



Conservation Farm Now on Google Maps!

We know our Conservation Farm is a little tricky to get to, so we now have an address and you can find it on Google Maps! The Conservation Farm's address is: 27546 Boorman Road, Leonard, MN 56652.

Look for the big brown sign that says "Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Farm, 1994, USFWS & USDA Cooperating." Roughly 0.2 miles East of the brown sign is our brand-new parking lot and start of our trail system!

2021 County Fair We hope you stopped by!

Clearwater SWCD attended the Clearwater County Fair from August 4th through August 8th.

Our booth was filled with useful goodies, information about our programs and all kinds of pamphlets ranging from A.I.S. to pollinators and soil health to watersheds.

We hope you stopped by for a visit, but if not, we'll see you next year at the fair!



Custom Services Not Just Tree Plantings

Clearwater SWCD now offers custom services! Clearwater SWCD is now offering ATV Broadcast Seeding and ATV Brush or Grass Mowing.

Broadcast Seeding is priced at \$7.00 per acre.

Brush or Grass Mowing is priced at \$20.00 an hour.

Landowner must provide any seed and complete any preparations needed before seeding or mowing.

Give our office a call for more information!

Clearwater County Rain Gauge

A look at rainfall for 2020 and 2021 so far

Clearwater County had an averaged total of 26.11 inches of rainfall in 2020. August was our wettest month with almost 8.5 inches of precipitation and February being our driest with 0.19 inches of precipitation converted from snow. When looking at the past 10 years, 26.5 inches is the average for annual rainfall totals in Clearwater County.

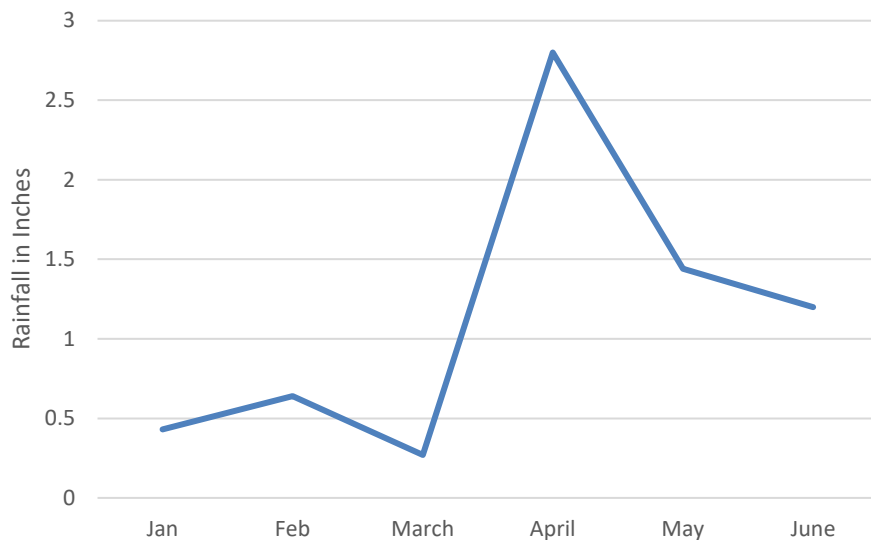
With regards to the entire state of Minnesota, according to the MN DNR Climatology, 2020 was the 19th driest year on record with a statewide average of 24.32 inches. Statewide, April and May precipitation fell short of normal by about an inch, June was normal, with July and August slightly above normal. With western wildfires spreading, September was the driest month of the year. October had some early snow fall, yet November and December were considered balmy for winter with the combined averages being the 11th warmest temperatures on record.

Clearwater SWCD, along with local volunteers have been working with the Minnesota Climatology Network to gather rainfall data since 1978. We currently have volunteers collecting rainfall data in Copley, Falk, Greenwood, Minerva, Moose Creek, Popple, and Rice townships. If you are in a township that does not have a volunteer and would like to become a part of our rain monitoring volunteers, give the office a call for more information.

2020 Clearwater County Average Annual Rainfall:



Clearwater County Rainfall Data from January to June 2021:



✦ Clearwater's Puzzle Page! ✦

This newsletter's event: **Waterbodies of Clearwater County**

Words can be found backwards and forwards

Words can share letters

P H L P X L L O E T U B N E N M M
 K T M G U O X C R Q B S V N M T I
 J O B L M K I J G M C P Y O N Q N
 A G O O N R R N R N T L G L O E N
 C K N R R M I N E R V A P T S P O
 P D L E B P B S B R Q V L O N I W
 I V P A E R I I T I G H O X H C I
 J P Q Q F J E N G J D M N R O K A
 U P T W Y E A K E L J N G G J E C
 C Q K U J X V G L Y A F I F Q R S
 S U G A R B U S H A F S W W X E A
 L O N G L O S T W U W J A Y A L T
 R E V I R R E T A W R A E L C Z I
 F Z J B S O P B A G L E Y Y L B O
 H D A T S K C O R C M E R A M E U
 R E V I R I P P I S S I S S I M E
 J A Q X S S A B E L T T I L X G I

Words can be found horizontal, vertical and diagonal

Waterbodies listed in green are a part of one or more of our programs

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Bagley | Lone | Pickerel |
| Big LaSalle | Long | Pine |
| Clearwater River | Long Lost | Rockstad |
| Falk | Minerva | Sugarbush |
| Itasca | Minnow | Upper Rice |
| Johnson | Mississippi River | Walker Brook |
| Little Bass | Moose | Wild Rice River |
| Lomond | Ozawindib | |

POSTAGE



CLEARWATER

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Visit Our Website



Mission:

Our mission is simple - to promote the wise use and improvement of our county resources, in order that future generations will inherit an economically viable county that has made wise choices in resource management.

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